

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

January 4, 2005

As we all know, children in foster care are among the most vulnerable members of our society. Although some foster children now have mentors, most do not. Much needs to be done before every foster child has that important helping hand to guide them.

Qualified mentors can provide the support and guidance these children so desperately need to face the challenges of life in out-of-home care.

In recognition of this critical need for mentors, the President of the United States has declared January 2005 as National Mentoring Month. In addition, the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) has formed a Task Force to focus on the creation of guidelines as well as to increase the number of available trained mentors for our young people.

**I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT** the Board of Supervisors joins with the President of the United States in declaring January 2005 as National Mentoring Month, and further that

**- M O R E -**

MOTION

BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
MOLINA	_____

the efforts of ICAN and all foster child mentoring programs be commended for their commitment to having a positive impact the health and well-being of Los Angeles County's foster children.

***In that foster children are the primary responsibility of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), I am requesting the Director of DCFS to assume the leadership role with the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect in achieving the goal of providing a mentor for every foster child by the year 2010. I further move that status reports be provided to the Board of Supervisors by the ICAN Task Force on Mentoring as appropriate.***

LT:di